

The Honorable Michael K. Powell
Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20554

Dear Chairman Powell:

As a customer of DIRECTV, I am writing to urge you to support the pending merger of EchoStar and HUGHES, the parent company of DIRECTV. I believe the merger will increase video and broadband choices for consumers like me.

The combined company will be a much stronger competitor to cable operators by being able to offer me local TV channels via satellite in my market area, which I currently do not receive.

Furthermore, the proposed merger will offer consumers a more competitive choice to standard cable. DTH services are largely less expensive per month than services from Cox or Comcast. If the proposed merger goes through, allowing all 210 broadcast markets to be serviced by Echostar/Hughes, cable companies will be forced to either lower prices in order to compete or to provide more content than they currently do. Either way, the consumer wins.

I currently have broadband access to the Internet, but the combination of EchoStar and HUGHES will result in increased competition in the broadband market by providing an affordable high-speed Internet service nationwide via satellite.

I appreciate your consideration of my views.

Sincerely,

James Jennings
205 Saint George
Lafayette, LA 70506